

Hunter College of the City University of New York
Department of Geography
Geography of New York State
Exercise 4 – EXTRA CREDIT
PHYSIOGRAPHIC AREAS of NYS

Due no later than date of Midterm Exam.

Neatness counts!

PURPOSE: *This exercise will familiarize you with location and characteristics of the 11 major physiographic regions of NYS that are described in Geology of New York and the 9 major bodies of water surrounding the state.*

ASSIGNMENT: Go to the **course home page** and **PRINT** the **Physiographic Diagram of NY-NJ-PA** which portrays the region's surface landform features. An examination of the map will reveal numerous details of the highland and lowland areas that at first seem to be a confused and unreadable collection of lines. Turn this drab map into a vivid portrayal of the upland and lowland regions of NYS.

1. **Locate the political boundary** of NYS (see Exercise 2). Use a **BLACK** felt tip pen or marker to draw it in.
2. **Outline in RED** the boundaries of the **four upland** and **seven lowland** areas listed below. *Use the numbering system from the boxes to identify the areas.* Consult the color *Elevations* map on the course home page and Fig. 1.1 in *Geology of New York*.

I. Upland Areas (*green*)

1. Adirondack Mts
2. Tug Hill Plateau
3. Appalachian Uplands
4. New England Uplands

II. Lowland Areas

(*yellow*)

5. Erie-Ontario Lowland
6. Black River Valley
7. St. Lawrence Valley
8. Champlain Lowland
9. Hudson-Mohawk Lowlands
10. Triassic Lowland
11. Atlantic Coastal Lowlands

III. Water Areas (*blue*)

12. Lake Erie
13. Lake Ontario
14. Niagara River
15. The Finger Lakes
16. St. Lawrence River
17. Lake Champlain
18. Atlantic Ocean
19. Long Island Sound
20. New York Harbor

3.
 - a) **List** your 3 counties on the side of the map.
 - b) **Locate** them on the map; place an **A**, **B** and **C** at their approximate location.
 - c) **List** the **physiographic areas** found in each county by placing appropriate numbers (1-11) after its name. Some counties may be part of two or more physiographic areas. Go to www.nationalatlas.gov/mapmaker. In the upper right "Zoom to State: NY." Then under MAP LAYERS check the counties, county names and shaded relief land and water (under Mineral Operations heading) to locate your counties within the physiographic regions.
4. **Shade lightly** the
 - a) four upland areas in **green**.
 - b) seven lowland areas in **yellow**.
 - c) nine water areas in **blue** (use the numbers in Box III to identify them).
5. **Make a KEY** in the upper right corner to explain the colors, letters and numbers. The boxes in paragraph 2 can be cut and taped to the map as part of the key.